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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for designing an electronic assembly, the method comprising the steps of:

transmitting a user interface that requests entry of electronic assembly design data,

receiving user-supplied electronic assembly design data via the user interface,

retrieving assembly cost data in response to receiving the user-supplied electronic assembly design data from an assembly cost database, the assembly cost data including a materials cost and a processing cost, and

updating the user interface ~~on the client machine~~ using the assembly cost data.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting a user interface comprises transmitting the user interface to a client machine via a publicly-accessible global network in response to a user-supplied request received by a server machine via the publicly-accessible global network.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting a user interface comprises transmitting the user interface application from a server machine to a client machine via the Internet.

4. (Previously Presented) The method claim 1, wherein transmitting a user interface comprises transmitting an assembly cost database with the user interface from a server machine to a client machine via a publicly-accessible global network.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving user-supplied electronic assembly design data comprises receiving user-supplied electronic assembly design data via an input device of a client machine.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving user-supplied electronic assembly design data comprises receiving user-supplied electronic assembly design data via a publicly-accessible global network.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein retrieving assembly cost data comprises retrieving the assembly cost data from an assembly cost database stored on a client machine in response to the user-supplied electronic assembly design data.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein retrieving assembly cost data comprises retrieving the assembly cost data, via a publicly-accessible global network, from an assembly cost database stored on a server machine in response to a user-supplied electronic assembly design data.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein retrieving assembly cost data comprises includes retrieving the assembly cost data from a server machine via a publicly-accessible global network.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising retrieving assembly capability data from an assembly capability database in response to the user-supplied electronic assembly design data.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising updating the user interface on a client machine based on the assembly capability data.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein updating the user interface on a client machine based on the assembly capability data includes displaying a traffic light image to a user.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising determining a per-unit assembly cost value based on the assembly cost data.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein determining a per-unit assembly cost value comprises determining a per-unit setup cost value and a per-unit run cost value.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein determining the per-unit setup cost value and the per-unit run cost value comprises determining a per-unit setup cost value and a per-unit run cost value for each work center of an electronic assembly process in response to the user-supplied electronic assembly design data.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein updating the user interface comprises displaying the per-unit assembly cost value to the user.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising determining a tooling cost value in response to and associated with the user-supplied electronic assembly design data.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein determining a tooling cost value comprises determining a tooling cost value based on the assembly cost data.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
determining a user selected-portion of the user interface,
retrieving an electronic assembly design image based on the user selected-portion, and
displaying the electronic assembly design image on a client machine to the user.

20. (Currently Amended) A method for designing an electronic assembly, the method comprising the steps of:

transmitting a user interface that requests entry of electronic assembly design data,

receiving user-supplied electronic assembly design data via the user interface,

retrieving assembly capability data that indicates the manufacturing capability of an electronic assembly manufacturer in response to receiving the user-supplied electronic assembly design data from an assembly capability database, the assembly capability data including a range of tolerances within the manufacturing capability of the electronic assembly manufacturer, and

updating the user interface based on the assembly capability data.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein transmitting a user interface comprises transmitting the user interface to a client machine via a publicly-accessible global network in response to a user-supplied request received by a server machine via the publicly-accessible global network.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein transmitting a user interface comprises transmitting the user interface from a server machine to a client machine via the Internet.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein transmitting a user interface comprises transmitting an assembly capability database with the user interface from a server machine to a client machine via a publicly-accessible global network.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein receiving user-supplied electronic assembly design data comprises receiving user-supplied electronic assembly design data via an input device of a client machine.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein receiving user-supplied electronic assembly design data comprises receiving user-supplied electronic assembly design data via a publicly-accessible global network.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein retrieving assembly capability data comprises retrieving assembly capability data from an assembly capability database stored on a client machine in response to the user-supplied electronic assembly design data.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein retrieving assembly capability data comprises retrieving assembly capability data, via a publicly-accessible global network, from an assembly capability database stored on a server machine based on the user-supplied electronic assembly design data.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein retrieving assembly capability data comprises retrieving the assembly capability data via a publicly-accessible global network.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein updating the user interface comprises displaying a traffic light image to a user.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, further comprising:
determining a user selected-portion of the user interface,
retrieving an electronic assembly design image based on the user selected-portion, and
displaying the electronic assembly design image on a client machine to the user.

31. (Currently Amended) A method for designing an electronic assembly, the method comprising:
transmitting a user interface that requests entry of electronic assembly design data,
receiving user-supplied electronic assembly design data via the user interface,

retrieving assembly cost data in response to receiving the user-supplied electronic assembly design data from an assembly cost database,

retrieving assembly capability data that indicates the manufacturing capability of an electronic assembly manufacturer in response to receiving the user-supplied electronic assembly design data from an assembly capability database, the assembly capability data including a range of tolerances within the manufacturing capability of the electronic assembly manufacturer, and

updating the user interface based on at least one of the assembly cost data and the assembly capability data.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein transmitting a user interface comprises transmitting the user interface to a client machine via a publicly-accessible global network in response to a user-supplied request received by a server machine via the publicly-accessible global network.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein transmitting a user interface comprises transmitting the user interface from a server machine to a client machine via the Internet.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein transmitting a user interface comprises transmitting an assembly cost database and an assembly capability database from a server machine to a client machine via a publicly-accessible global network.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31; wherein receiving user-supplied electronic assembly design data comprises receiving user-supplied electronic assembly design data via an input device of a client machine.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein receiving user-supplied electronic assembly design data comprises receiving user-supplied electronic assembly design data via a publicly-accessible global network.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein retrieving assembly cost data comprises retrieving assembly cost data from an assembly cost database stored on a client machine in response to the user-supplied electronic assembly design data.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein retrieving assembly cost data comprises retrieving assembly cost data from an assembly cost database stored on a server machine in response to the user-supplied electronic assembly design data.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein retrieving assembly cost data comprises retrieving the assembly cost data from an assembly cost database via a publicly-accessible global network

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein retrieving assembly capability data comprises retrieving assembly capability data from an assembly capability database stored on a client machine in response to the user-supplied electronic assembly design data.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein retrieving assembly capability data comprises retrieving assembly capability data from an assembly capability database stored on a server machine in response to the user-supplied electronic assembly design data.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein retrieving assembly capability data comprises retrieving the assembly capability data from an assembly capability database via a publicly-accessible global network

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein updating the user interface comprises displaying a traffic light image to a user.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, further comprising determining a per-unit assembly cost value based on the assembly cost data.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein determining a per-unit assembly cost value comprises determining a per-unit setup cost value and a per-unit run cost value.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, wherein determining a per-unit setup cost value and a per-unit run cost value comprises determining a per-unit setup cost value and a per-unit run cost value for each work center of a electronic assembly process in response to the user-supplied electronic assembly design data.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein updating the user interface comprises displaying the per-unit assembly cost value to the user.

48. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31, further comprising determining a tooling cost value in response to and associated with the user-supplied electronic assembly design data.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 48, wherein determining a tooling cost value comprises determining a tooling cost value based on the assembly cost data.

50. (Currently Amended) An article comprising a computer-readable signal-bearing medium having therein a plurality of instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to:

display a user interface that requests entry of electronic assembly design data to a user,

retrieve assembly cost data in response to receiving user-supplied electronic assembly design data from an assembly cost database,

retrieve assembly capability data that indicates the manufacturing capability of an electronic assembly manufacturer in response to receiving the user-supplied electronic assembly design data from an assembly capability database, the assembly capability data including a range of tolerances within the manufacturing capability of the electronic assembly manufacturer, and

update the user interface based on at least one of the assembly cost data and the assembly capability data.

51. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 50, wherein the plurality of instructions, when executed by the processor, further cause the processor to retrieve the assembly cost data from the assembly cost database via a publicly-accessible global network.

52. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 50, wherein the plurality of instructions, when executed by the processor, further cause the processor to retrieve the assembly capability data from the assembly capability database via a publicly-accessible global network.